

## **Summary of the July 16, 2018, NSF/CISE Workshop for Department Chairs on Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC)**

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The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) hosted a meeting for university department chairs on July 16, 2018, in Salt Lake City, UT. The meeting preceded the [Computing Research Association's \(CRA\) biennial conference at Snowbird](#), where broadening participation in computing continued as a theme among leaders of the North American computing research community.

The workshop was an opportunity to share information on CISE's Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC) pilot effort, and allowed the approx. 60 attendees to discuss and learn more about ongoing BPC activities within the community.

Here are some key details from the overview about the BPC pilot effort:

**WHY?** This is an important time in computing education. Interest and enrollments in computer science, information science, and computer engineering courses are skyrocketing but are still limited by disproportionate representation of all segments of society.

**WHO?** The BPC effort aims to address the longstanding underrepresentation of various populations – women, African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Native Pacific Islanders, and persons with disabilities – in computing.

**WHAT?** CISE's BPC pilot effort will be informed by feedback throughout the pilot.

**WHERE?** This pilot currently involves the CISE's core research programs in its Computer and Network Systems, Computing and Communication Foundations, and Information and Intelligent Systems divisions and the Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, as well as the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) programs.

**WHEN?** Beginning with deadlines in fall 2018, CISE's BPC pilot calls on each Medium and Large core, SaTC, and CPS project to have an approved BPC plan by the time of award. Per the solicitations, "CISE will work with each principal investigator (PI) team following merit review and prior to making an award to ensure that plans are meaningful and include concrete metrics for success..."

A panel provided some ideas for BPC activities:

**HOW?** A new online resource is being developed by CRA, called the "[BPCNet Resource Portal](#)" to enable CISE PIs to share and find promising practices for BPC. This resource may include examples of departmental plans for broadening participation, programs-in-a-box that provide instructions for implementing promising BPC activities, and links to resources produced through [NSF/CISE-supported BPC Alliances](#).

The idea to leverage and expand existing activities for a collective impact approach toward broadening participation in computing resounded from the discussion following the panel, as well as in conversations throughout CRA's conference at Snowbird.

In fact, the topic of increasing diversity in computing was the theme of the opening plenary panel at the conference at Snowbird as well as several of the parallel tracks, and it surfaced in many informal

conversations. [One parallel track](#) presented a top 10 list of ideas that will be available on the BPCNet Resource Portal.

We in CISE look forward to maintaining the momentum of these discussions to successfully achieve BPC. We are invested in leading impactful and meaningful change for our community!